

UC San Diego

UC San Diego Previously Published Works

Title

Towards Noise Simulation in Interacting Nonequilibrium Systems Strongly Coupled to Baths.

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7m339090>

Journal

Scientific reports, 7(1)

ISSN

2045-2322

Authors

Miwa, Kuniyuki
Chen, Feng
Galperin, Michael

Publication Date

2017-08-01

DOI

10.1038/s41598-017-09060-0

Peer reviewed

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN

Towards Noise Simulation in Interacting Nonequilibrium Systems Strongly Coupled to Baths

Kuniyuki Miwa¹ , Feng Chen² & Michael Galperin³

Progress in experimental techniques at nanoscale makes measurements of noise in molecular junctions possible. These data are important source of information not accessible through average flux measurements. The emergence of optoelectronics, the recently shown possibility of strong light-matter couplings, and developments in the field of quantum thermodynamics are making measurements of transport statistics even more important. Theoretical methods for noise evaluation in first principles simulations can be roughly divided into approaches for weak intra-system interactions, and those treating strong interactions for systems weakly coupled to baths. We argue that due to structure of its diagrammatic expansion, and the use of many-body states as a basis of its formulation, the recently introduced nonequilibrium diagrammatic technique for Hubbard Green functions is a relatively inexpensive method suitable for evaluation of noise characteristics in first principles simulations over a wide range of parameters. We illustrate viability of the approach by simulations of noise and noise spectrum within generic models for non-, weakly and strongly interacting systems. Results of the simulations are compared to exact data (where available) and to simulations performed within approaches best suited for each of the three parameter regimes.

Progress in experimental techniques at nanoscale resulted in the possibility to obtain information on transport characteristics of nanojunctions beyond average flux measurements¹. In particular, shot noise measurements in single molecule junctions were recently reported in the literature². Shot noise (second cumulant in the full counting statistics of quantized charge transport) yields information not accessible through average flux measurements; it is also more sensitive to intra-molecular interactions, such as intra-system Coulomb repulsion³, magnetism^{4–6}, and intra-molecular electron-vibration interactions^{7,8}. Probing current-carrying molecular junctions by optical means, a new field of research coined the term molecular optoelectronics^{9,10}, was introduced as another way to probe shot noise and charge fluctuations in nanojunctions^{11–13}. Corresponding theory of light emission from quantum noise was recently formulated¹⁴. Finally, recent experiments on strong^{15–17} and ultra-strong¹⁸ light-molecules coupling in nano cavities makes prospects of similar measurements in molecular junctions feasible. Full counting statistics (FCS) of both charge transport and photon flux (as well as their cross-correlations) is especially important in this case.

The theoretical concept of full counting statistics was originally proposed by Levitov and Lesovik^{19,20}, and further developed in numerous studies¹. In particular, within the standard nonequilibrium Green function (NEGF) formulation, the concept was studied by Gogolin and Komnik²¹. For noninteracting systems, the formulation is exact, and both steady-state^{21–23} and transient regime^{24,25} considerations are available in the literature. Accounting for intra-system interactions is a nontrivial task. Currently, the two main approaches are: perturbation theory treatments for weak (relative to system-baths coupling) interactions^{26–34} and quantum master (or even rate) equations (QME) for strong interactions (and negligible system-baths coupling)^{35–37}. In the former and within the NEGF, self-consistent FCS formulations^{38,39} (as required for an approximation to be conserving^{40,41}) were considered, and first *ab initio* simulations were performed⁴². The QME approach found numerous applications in the developing field of quantum thermodynamics⁴³. Both approaches have their limitations: the former is formulated in the language of elementary excitations and thus is inconvenient in treating strong intra-system interactions. The QME formulated in the basis of system many-body states (thus accounting for intra-system interactions) has

¹Surface and Interface Science Laboratory, RIKEN, Wako, Saitama, 351-0198, Japan. ²Department of Physics, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093, USA. ³Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093, USA. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to M.G. (email: migalperin@ucsd.edu)

difficulty treating strong system-bath couplings. In this respect, an important extension of the latter approach is formulation of the real time perturbation theory (and similar approaches)^{44–50}, which allowed evaluation of shot noise accounting for system-bath coupling within a systematic perturbation expansion⁵¹.

In this study, we use the recently proposed nonequilibrium diagrammatic technique for Hubbard Green functions (Hubbard NEGF)⁵² to simulate FCS and noise spectrum in molecular junctions. We note in passing that earlier studies of Hubbard NEGF^{53, 54} were restricted to the evaluation of two-time correlation functions only, while simulation of noise spectrum requires evaluation of multi-time correlation functions. The latter is only possible within diagrammatic consideration (for a detailed comparison between earlier studies and diagrammatic approach to Hubbard NEGF, see ref. 52). Contrary to the standard NEGF, which considers multi-time correlation functions of elementary (de-)excitation operators \hat{d}_i^\dagger (\hat{d}_i) - where i is a single electron orbital, the Hubbard NEGF deals with correlation functions of projection operators $\hat{X}_{S_1 S_2} = |S_1\rangle\langle S_2|$ - where $|S_{1,2}\rangle$ are many-body states of the system. Similarities between the two approaches (illustrated by spectral decomposition $\hat{d}_i = \sum_{S_1, S_2} \langle S_1 | \hat{d}_i | S_2 \rangle \hat{X}_{S_1 S_2}$) indicate that the structure of the diagrammatic technique for the Hubbard NEGF should (to some extent) resemble that of the standard NEGF (although expansions themselves are different: Hubbard NEGF considers perturbation series in system-bath coupling, while NEGF expands in small intra-system interactions). A similar way of treating self-energies in the two techniques makes expectation that Hubbard NEGF will be successful in accounting for relatively strong system-bath couplings plausible. At the same time, formulation in the language of many-body states makes the Hubbard NEGF similar to the QME approaches. Thus one may expect that accounting for strong intra-system interactions is feasible within the Hubbard NEGF. Note that similar to the real time perturbation theory of refs 44–46, 51 the Hubbard NEGF expansion is systematic. Note also that lowest order Hubbard NEGF diagrams are still simple enough to be applicable in first principles simulations. This paves a way to *ab initio* calculations of noise beyond the weak interaction limit of ref. 42.

Below, we present noise simulation in model systems within the Hubbard NEGF, comparing results to those of other approaches. The presentation is followed by a discussion of the approach indicating its strengths and weaknesses, and pointing to directions for further research. Finally, we briefly introduce the Hubbard NEGF diagrammatic technique; details of the technique and its application to noise simulation can be found in ref. 52 and in the Supplementary Information.

Results

We consider Anderson impurity as a junction model. Its Hamiltonian is

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H} &= \sum_{\sigma=\uparrow,\downarrow} \varepsilon_\sigma \hat{n}_\sigma + U \hat{n}_\uparrow \hat{n}_\downarrow + \sum_{\substack{k \in L, R \\ \sigma=\uparrow,\downarrow}} \varepsilon_{k\sigma} \hat{n}_{k\sigma} + \sum_{\substack{k \in L, R \\ \sigma_1, \sigma_2=\uparrow,\downarrow}} (V_{\sigma_1, k\sigma_2} \hat{d}_{\sigma_1}^\dagger \hat{c}_{k\sigma_2} + H.c.) \\ &\equiv \sum_S E_S \hat{X}_{SS} + \sum_{\substack{k \in L, R; m \\ \sigma=\uparrow,\downarrow}} \varepsilon_{k\sigma} \hat{n}_{k\sigma} + \sum_{\substack{k \in L, R; m \\ \sigma_1, \sigma_2=\uparrow,\downarrow}} (V_{m(\sigma_1), k\sigma_2} \hat{X}_m^\dagger \hat{c}_{k\sigma_2} + H.c.) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

The first line utilizes second quantization, while the second employs many-body states. Here, \hat{d}_σ^\dagger and $\hat{c}_{k\sigma}^\dagger$ are creation operators for electron with spin σ in the system or contact state k , respectively; $\hat{n}_\sigma = \hat{d}_\sigma^\dagger \hat{d}_\sigma$ and $\hat{n}_{k\sigma} = \hat{c}_{k\sigma}^\dagger \hat{c}_{k\sigma}$, $|S\rangle = |0\rangle, |a\rangle, |b\rangle, |2\rangle$ are empty, spin-up, spin-down, and double-occupied many-body states with energies $E_0 = 0, E_a = \varepsilon_\uparrow, E_b = \varepsilon_\downarrow, E_2 = \varepsilon_\uparrow + \varepsilon_\downarrow + U$; $m = 0a, b2, 0b, a2$ are single electron transitions between pairs of many-body states ($0a$ and $b2$ are spin up transitions, $0b$ and $a2$ are spin down), and L and R are left and right contacts. Within the model, U represents intra-system interaction, system-baths couplings are characterized by escape rate matrices, $\Gamma_{\sigma_1 \sigma_2}^K(E) = 2\pi \sum_{k \in K; \sigma} V_{\sigma_1, k\sigma} V_{k\sigma, \sigma_2} \delta(E - \varepsilon_{k\sigma})$ ($K = L, R$), which are energy-independent in the wide band approximation.

We simulate the current and noise spectrum at the left interface for a steady-state transport situation

$$\begin{aligned} I_L &= \langle \hat{I}_L(0) \rangle \quad S_{LL}(\omega) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} \langle \{\delta \hat{I}_L(t); \delta \hat{I}_L(0)\} \rangle \\ \hat{I}_L(t) &= -\frac{d}{dt} \sum_{k \in L; \sigma} \hat{n}_{k\sigma}(t) \quad \delta \hat{I}_L(t) = \hat{I}_L(t) - \langle \hat{I}_L(t) \rangle \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Green function techniques use exact (Meir-Wingreen) expression for the current, and approximate (perturbative in system-baths couplings) derivation similar to that of ref. 30 for the noise spectrum. In the Hubbard NEGF, this derivation leads to diagrams presented in Fig. 1d. FCS is introduced as usual by dressing transfer matrix elements $V_{\sigma_1, k\sigma_2}$ ($V_{m(\sigma_1), k\sigma_2}$) with a contour-branch-dependent counting field λ for $k \in L$. Zero frequency noise (second cumulant of the FCS) is obtained from a derivative of the dressed current, $S_{LL}(\omega = 0) = -i \partial_{\lambda} I_L^\lambda|_{\lambda=0}$ (see, e.g., ref. 55 for details). Simulations are performed within the Hubbard NEGF, standard NEGF, and Lindblad/Redfield QME for non-interacting ($U = 0$), weakly interacting ($U \leq \Gamma_0$), and strongly interacting ($U \gg \Gamma_0$) cases (system-bath coupling strength Γ_0 is used as a unit of energy). Note that Lindblad/Redfield QME does not yield noise spectrum; current and zero-frequency noise were simulated within the FCS (see ref. 56 for details). Results of the simulations are presented in units of $I_0 = e\Gamma_0/\hbar$ for current and $S_0 = e^2\Gamma_0/2\hbar$ for noise.

Non-interacting system. We first present results of simulations for non-interacting case ($U = 0$). Note that all the standard NEGF results (including expression for noise spectrum) are exact in this case. We consider two sets of parameters representing degenerate and non-degenerate two-level systems. Parameters for the degenerate

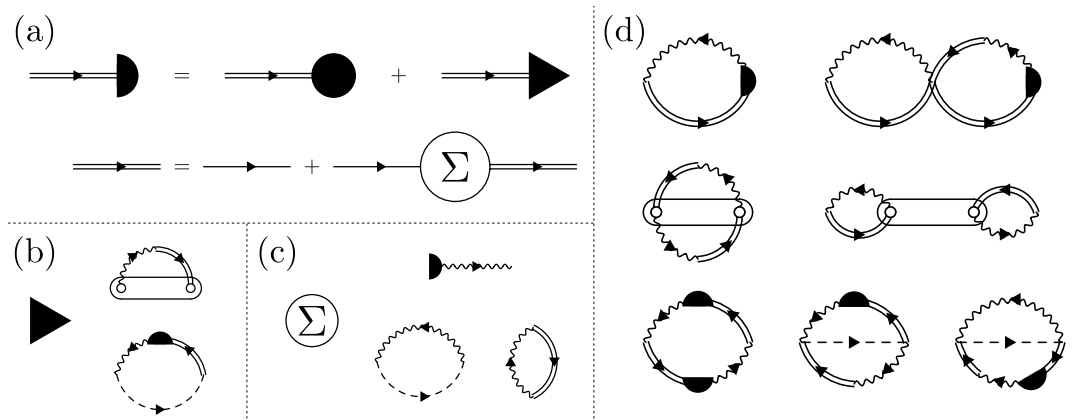


Figure 1. Hubbard NEGF. Shown are (a) generalized Dyson equation and second order dressed diagrams for (b) vertex Δ (triangle) and (c) self-energy Σ . Panel (d) presents diagrams utilized in noise spectrum simulations. Directed single (double) solid line represents zero-order (dressed) locator $g^{(0)}$ (g), directed dashed line stands for two-electron Green function, and directed wavy line indicates electron-electron correlation function yielding influence of contacts (in standard NEGF this function is called self-energy due to coupling to contacts). Circle represents spectral weight F , semi-circle stands for the strength operator $P = F + \Delta$, and oval is intra-molecular correlation function. See Methods and Supporting Information for details.

model are (all energies are in units of Γ_0) $\varepsilon_{\uparrow} = \varepsilon_{\downarrow} = 5$, $\Gamma_{\uparrow\uparrow}^K = \Gamma_{\uparrow\downarrow}^K = 1$ and $\Gamma_{\downarrow\uparrow}^K = \Gamma_{\downarrow\downarrow}^K = 0.5$ ($K = L, R$). Non-degenerate model is given by $\varepsilon_{\uparrow} = -5$, $\varepsilon_{\downarrow} = 5$, $\Gamma_{\uparrow\uparrow}^K = \Gamma_{\uparrow\downarrow}^K = 1$ and $\Gamma_{\downarrow\uparrow}^K = \Gamma_{\downarrow\downarrow}^K = 0$. In both models, temperature was taken $k_B T = 1/3$, Fermi energy chosen as the origin ($E_F = 0$), and bias applied symmetrically ($\mu_{L,R} = E_F \pm |e|V_{sd}/2$). Simulations were performed on an energy grid spanning from -120 to 120 with step 0.01 . Tolerance for convergence of the Hubbard NEGF scheme was 0.001 for the difference in density matrix values (state populations and coherences) in consequent steps of iteration. The counting field for numerical evaluation of FCS was chosen as $\lambda = 0.01$.

Figure 2 presents results of FCS simulations for the degenerate model, performed within the Hubbard NEGF (dashed line) and standard NEGF (solid line). The Hubbard NEGF employs self-consistent FCS as described in ref. 38. FCS results were checked against analytical expressions known for noninteracting systems. Standard NEGF (exact) results are reproduced very accurately by the approximate Hubbard NEGF simulations for both current (Fig. 2a) and zero-frequency noise (Fig. 2b). At resonant bias, $|e|V_{sd} = 10\Gamma_0$, conductance is maximum (inset in Fig. 2a), while noise derivative has a dip (inset in Fig. 2b), as is expected from the Landauer expression for shot noise. Results for the non-degenerate model are similar. The noise spectrum simulated for the two models within the Hubbard NEGF also reproduces exact (NEGF) results accurately (see Fig. 3).

Note that pseudoparticle NEGF (PP-NEGF), another popular Green function methodology using system many-body states, is widely employed as a standard impurity solver in nonequilibrium dynamical mean field theory simulations⁵⁷. The inability of the methodology to yield information on full counting statistics presumably comes from its formulation within extended (unphysical) Hilbert space. At the same time, PP-NEGF can be used for simulations of current and noise spectrum. In Supplementary Information, we show that at the same (second order) level of diagrammatic perturbation expansion in system-baths couplings, PP-NEGF reproduces current, but fails to reproduce noise spectrum. The method is unable to yield correct spectral function even for non-interacting systems, which leads to failure of the noise spectrum simulation.

Weakly interacting system. We now turn to weakly interacting cases, where $U/\Gamma_0 \ll 1$ and perturbative expansion in this small parameter within standard NEGF should yield reasonable results⁵⁸, while Lindblad/Redfield QME is not expected to be accurate. Figure 4 shows the results of FCS simulations for both models performed within the Hubbard NEGF (dashed line), standard NEGF (solid line), and Lindblad/Redfield QME (dotted line) for a set of intra-system interaction strengths U . Here both Green function techniques rely on self-consistency in numerical evaluation of FCS. As expected, results are quite similar for both Green function techniques and differ significantly from the QME calculations. Naturally, Hubbard and standard NEGF results coinciding at weak U (see Fig. 4a and e) start to depart from each other at stronger interaction values. The difference is more pronounced in zero-frequency noise (main panels) than in the current (insets). There is an interesting distinction between noise results for the two models: Comparing Fig. 4c and g shows that for $U = \Gamma_0$, the Hubbard NEGF noise result for degenerate model develops a dip at $|e|V_{sd} \sim 10\Gamma_0$, while no dip is observed in the non-degenerate case. The reason is difference in energetics of the two models: Single electron transitions $0a, b2, 0b, a2$ for the non-degenerate model occur at $-5, -4, 5, 6$, while for the degenerate model the transitions are at $5, 6, 5, 6$ (all energies are in units of Γ_0). Thus by the time bias reaches a resonant value of $|e|V_{sd} = 10\Gamma_0$ (when physical electronic population of the system becomes significant) channel $b2$ in the non-degenerate model is open so that state $|2\rangle$ can be populated. Therefore no Coulomb blockade is observed. The degenerate model is Coulomb blocked until $|e|V_{sd} = 12\Gamma_0$. Such suppression of shot noise due to charging effects was observed experimentally³. Note that the effect is seen already at $U = \Gamma_0/2$ (compare Fig. 4b and f), where perturbation expansion in $U/$

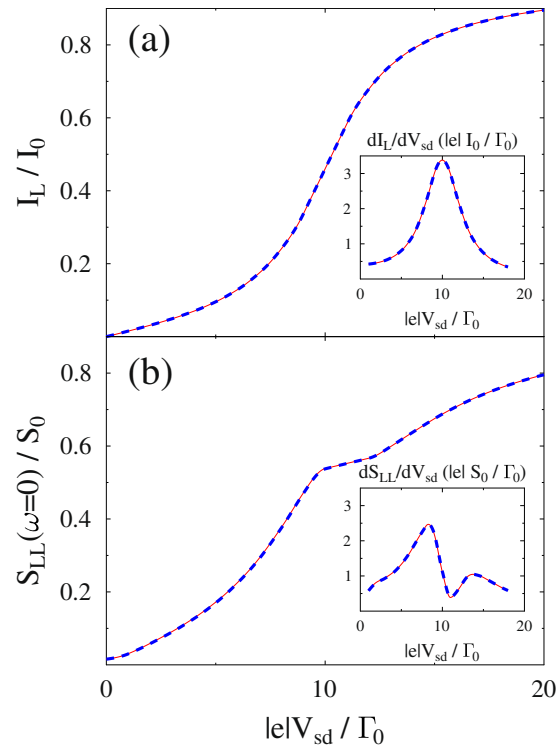


Figure 2. Degenerate non-interacting two-level system. Shown are (a) current and (b) zero frequency noise obtained employing full counting statistics within the Hubbard NEGF (dashed line, blue) and standard NEGF (solid line, red) approaches. For non-interacting case the latter is exact. Insets show conductance and differential noise, respectively. See text for parameters.

Γ_0 should still be relatively accurate. However standard NEGF does not reproduce the effect because of a mean field character of treatment of U within second-order diagrammatic expansion. At the same time, the Hubbard NEGF (also considered at the second order) is accurate enough to account for the suppression.

Strongly interacting system. Finally, we consider strong interaction cases, $U/\Gamma_0 \gg 1$, where Lindblad/Redfield is expected to be relatively accurate. Following ref. 30 we consider a model with the following parameters, in which all energies are in units of Γ_0 : $\varepsilon_\uparrow = \varepsilon_\downarrow = 50$, $U = 100$, $\Gamma_{\uparrow\uparrow}^K = \Gamma_{\downarrow\downarrow}^K = 1$ and $\Gamma_{\uparrow\downarrow}^K = \Gamma_{\downarrow\uparrow}^K = 0$ ($K = L, R$), $k_B T = 3$. Figure 5 (analog of Fig. 7 in ref. 30) shows current and zero frequency noise simulated within the Hubbard NEGF (dashed line), standard NEGF (solid line), and Lindblad/Redfield QME (dotted line). Also shown are analytical results of ref. 51. Note that the standard NEGF consideration here follows ref. 30. Hubbard NEGF follows quite closely the expected correct behavior (QME and analytical results).

We note that diagrammatic Hubbard NEGF is a perturbative (in system-bath coupling) method, and as such is not capable to treat strong system-bath correlations. In particular, the Kondo regime is beyond the capabilities of the method. At the same time, there are many cases (including most experimental measurements of noise in molecular junctions) where strong system-bath coupling is accompanied by non-negligible intra-system interactions (e.g. electron-vibration coupling in the molecule), and yet is outside of the Kondo regime. Theoretical simulations of noise in such systems are complicated within both standard NEGF and QME approaches. The Hubbard NEGF methodology presented yields a practical tool for first principle simulations in such systems.

Discussion

Results of simulations show that the Hubbard NEGF is an inexpensive method capable to reproduce satisfactory noise characteristics of junctions over a wide range of parameters. Indeed, one has to go only to lowest (second) order in perturbative expansion in system-bath coupling to get reliable results. We think that this universality is due to basic components of the Hubbard NEGF formulation. First, as a methodology using many-body states of the system, the Hubbard NEGF accounts for strong intra-system interactions. This also makes it similar to QME considerations, which even at the lowest (second) order in system-bath coupling are successfully utilized for FCS simulations in interacting systems weakly coupled to their surroundings. In particular, such QME methods are the cornerstone of quantum thermodynamics and nonlinear optical spectroscopy considerations. At the same time, similar to the standard NEGF and contrary to both QME and PP-NEGF formulations, the Hubbard NEGF considers time correlations between single electron transitions. Note that the standard NEGF yields exact FCS results for non-interacting systems, and was successfully applied in first principles simulations in the regime of strong coupling to baths and weak intra-system interactions. These similarities with different techniques, each

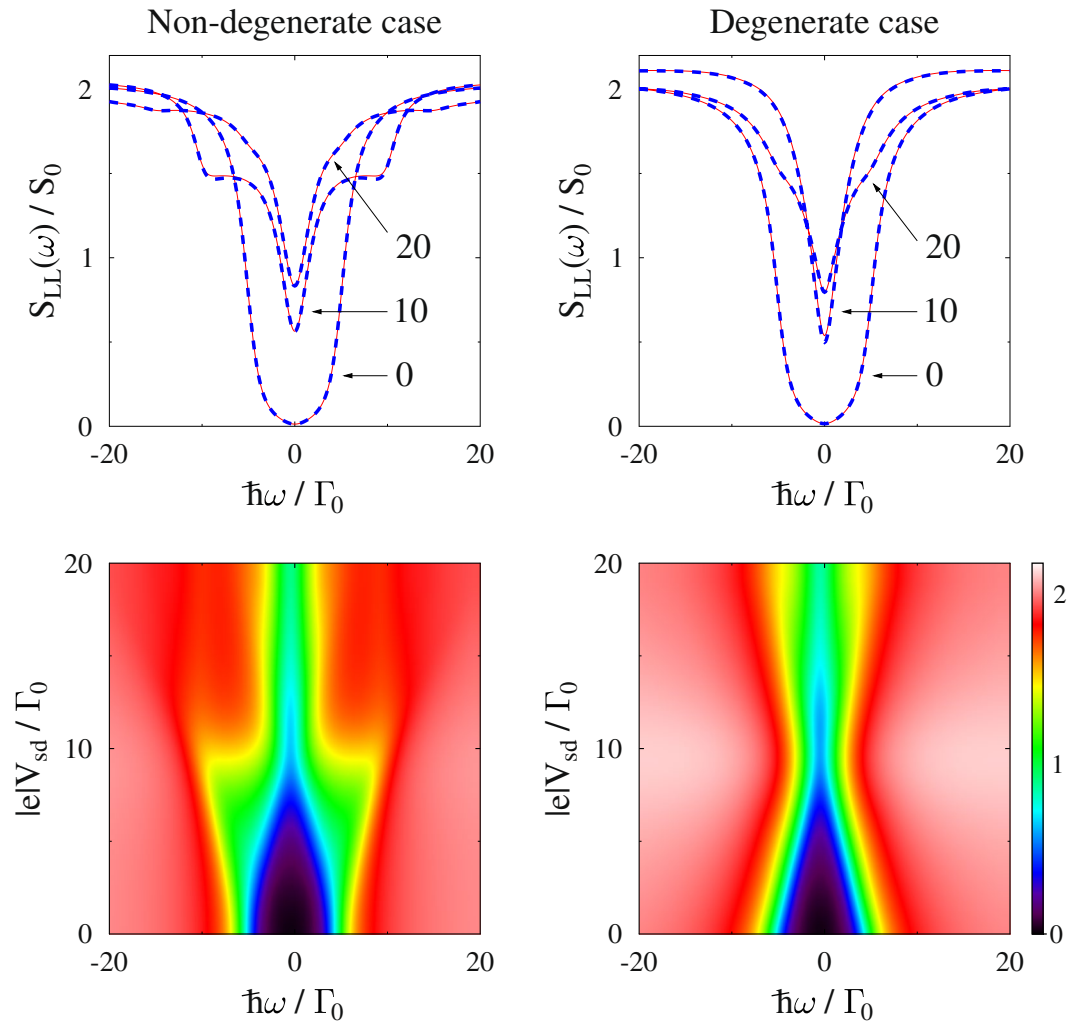


Figure 3. Non-degenerate (left) and degenerate (right) non-interacting two-level systems. Shown is noise spectrum simulated within the Hubbard NEGF utilizing diagrams in Fig. 1d. Top panels (horizontal cuts of lower maps) compare the Hubbard NEGF (dashed line, blue) with exact results (solid line, red) for three biases. See text for parameters.

most suitable at opposite limits, make the Hubbard NEGF a good candidate for a relatively inexpensive approach capable of predicting noise properties in transport junctions over a wide range of parameters.

It is interesting to note that in terms of structure of diagrammatic expansion, PP-NEGF, which considers correlation functions of many-body states, is closer to QME considerations. Thus, failure of the approach to predict zero-frequency noise in non-interacting systems at the same (second) order of perturbation theory where Hubbard NEGF was successful is expected. Besides, the very formulation of the PP-NEGF in extended (unphysical) Hilbert space presumably does not allow FCS formulation within the method. The latter was shown to work well in the case of Hubbard NEGF.

We show that the Hubbard NEGF yields accurate results over a broad range of parameters already at the lowest (second) order in the system-bath coupling. For non-interacting cases, Hubbard NEGF yields results similar to the standard NEGF, which is exact in this limit. For weak intra-system interactions, Hubbard NEGF is better than both the (same order of perturbation theory) standard NEGF and QME approaches. At the same time, for strong intra-system interactions, real-time perturbation theory works better than the present Hubbard NEGF consideration. Thus, careful (diagram to diagram) comparison of the two approaches is one of goals for future studies.

With respect to relevance of the methodology to experiments, we note that almost all noise measurements at molecular junctions are restricted to either non-interacting or relatively weak electron-vibration interactions^{2,7,8,59} and are treated theoretically within second-order perturbation theory^{31,33,34,42}. Hubbard NEGF is a scheme applicable in such experimentally relevant situations, and is capable of going beyond lowest-order perturbative schemes in intra-system interactions. It also may serve as a useful theoretical tool for investigation of (soon expected to be reported) measurements of strong light-matter interactions^{15–18} in molecular junctions.

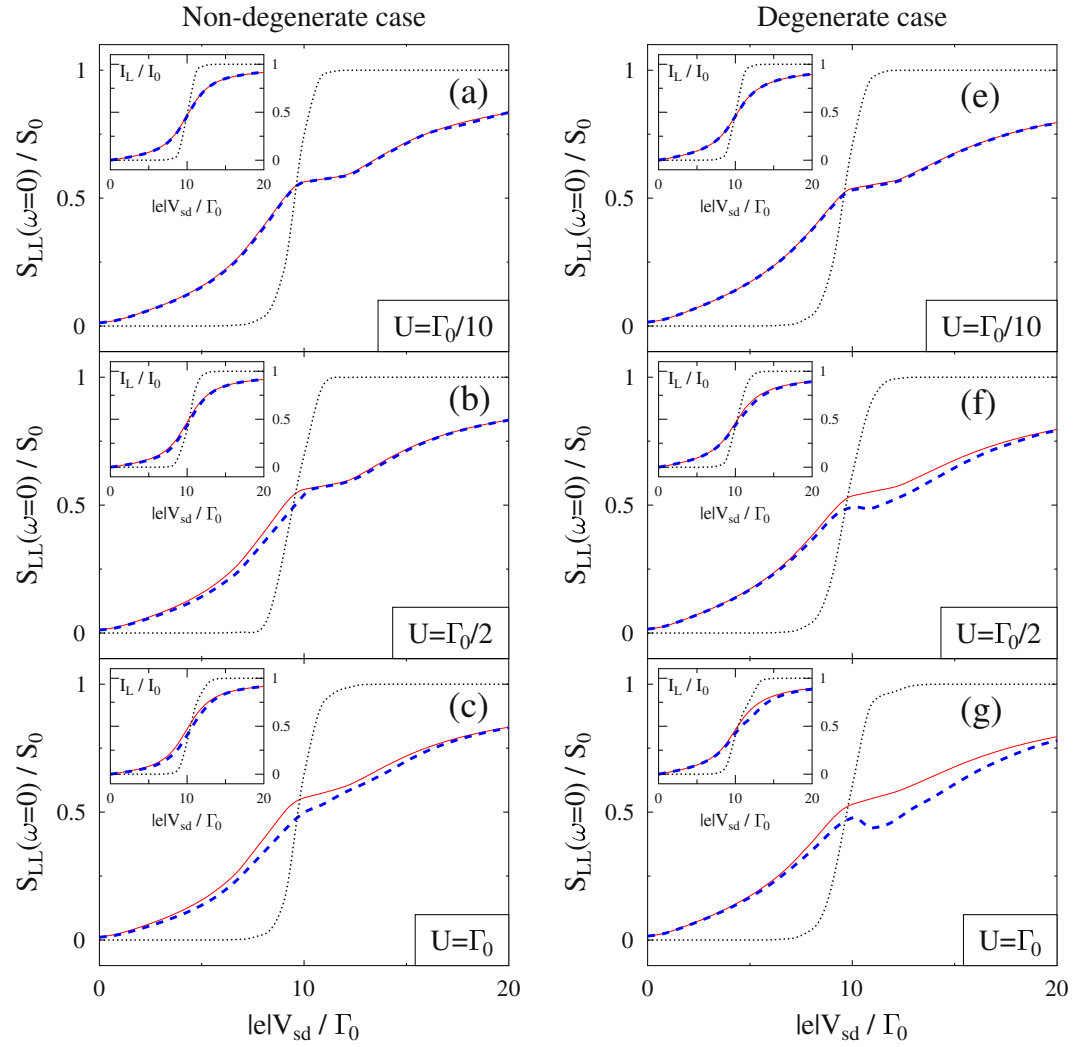


Figure 4. Non-degenerate (a–c) and degenerate (e–g) Hubbard model in the weak interaction $U \leq \Gamma_0$ regime. Shown are current (insets) and zero-frequency noise vs. applied bias. Simulations are performed utilizing the full counting statistics within the Hubbard NEGF (dashed line, blue), standard NEGF (solid line, red), and Lindblad/Redfield QME (dotted line, black). See text for parameters.

Methods

Details on standard NEGF simulations can be found in refs 30, 38. Lindblad/Redfield simulations are discussed in refs 43, 56. PP-NEGF formulation is discussed in refs 57, 60. Expressions for noise spectrum within the PP-NEGF can be found in Supporting Information. Here we briefly discuss the Hubbard NEGF approach.

Hubbard NEGF considers the correlation function of Hubbard operators defined on the Keldysh contour as

$$G_{m_1 m_2}(\tau_1, \tau_2) = -i \langle T_c \hat{X}_{m_1}(\tau_1) \hat{X}_{m_2}^\dagger(\tau_2) \rangle \quad (3)$$

where $\tau_{1,2}$ are contour variables, T_c is contour ordering operator, $m_{1,2}$ are single electron transitions between many body states, and $\hat{X}_m = |S_1\rangle\langle S_2|$ with $|S_1\rangle$ containing one electron less than $|S_2\rangle$. The Green function is obtained by solving a modified version of the Dyson type equation (see Fig. 1a)

$$\begin{aligned} G_{m_1 m_2}(\tau_1, \tau_2) &= \sum_{m_3} \int_c d\tau_3 g_{m_1 m_3}(\tau_1, \tau_3) P_{m_3 m_2}(\tau_3, \tau_2) \\ g_{m_1 m_2}(\tau_1, \tau_2) &= g_{m_1 m_2}^0(\tau_1, \tau_2) + \sum_{m_3, m_4} \int_c d\tau_3 \int_c d\tau_4 g_{m_1 m_3}^0(\tau_1, \tau_3) \Sigma_{m_3 m_4}(\tau_3, \tau_4) g_{m_4 m_2}(\tau_4, \tau_2) \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Here, $g_{m_1 m_2}(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ is the locator, $g_{m_1 m_2}^0(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ is the locator in the absence of coupling to the baths, $\Sigma_{m_1 m_2}(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ is self-energy, and $P_{m_1 m_2}(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ is the strength operator. The latter is the sum of spectral weight $F_{m_1 m_2}(\tau)$ and vertex $\Delta_{m_1 m_2}(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ functions (dressed second-order diagrams for vertex Δ and self-energy Σ are shown in Fig. 1b and c, respectively). Self-consistency of the approach comes from the fact that both self-energy and strength operators

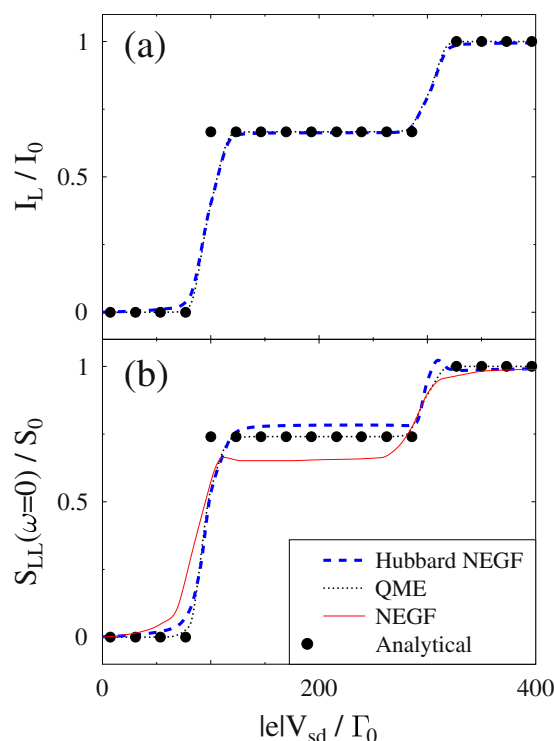


Figure 5. Hubbard model in the strong interaction regime $U \gg \Gamma_0$. Shown are (a) current and (b) zero-frequency noise vs. applied bias, calculated within the Hubbard NEGF (dashed line, blue), standard NEGF (solid line, red), and Lindblad/Redfield QME (dotted line, black). Solid circles (black) indicate analytical result as derived in ref. 51 within the lowest (first-) order perturbation theory in Γ_0 . Noise simulations are performed within the Hubbard NEGF and standard NEGF utilizing noise spectrum diagrams of Fig. 1d and ref. 30, respectively; simulations within Lindblad/Redfield QME utilize full counting statistics. See text for parameters.

depend on the Hubbard Green function. After convergence, the Hubbard Green function is used in a simulation of current and noise. For FCS, the Eq (4) are dressed with counting fields. Details of the self-consistent procedure are given in ref. 52. Explicit expressions for noise spectrum in terms of Hubbard Green functions are given in the Supporting Information. Figure 1d shows corresponding diagrams.

Data Availability Statement. All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article (and its Supplementary Information files).

References

- Blanter, Y. M. & Buttiker, M. Shot noise in mesoscopic conductors. *Phys. Rep.* **336**, 1–166 (2000).
- Djukic, D. & van Ruitenbeek, J. M. Shot noise measurements on a single molecule. *Nano Lett.* **6**, 789–793 (2006).
- Birk, H., de Jong, M. J. M. & Schönenberger, C. Shot-noise suppression in the single-electron tunneling regime. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **75**, 1610–1613 (1995).
- Kumar, M. *et al.* Shot noise and magnetism of Pt atomic chains: Accumulation of points at the boundary. *Phys. Rev. B* **88**, 245431 (2013).
- Burtzclaff, A., Weismann, A., Brandbyge, M. & Berndt, R. Shot noise as a probe of spin-polarized transport through single atoms. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **114**, 016602 (2015).
- Arakawa, T. *et al.* Shot noise induced by nonequilibrium spin accumulation. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **114**, 016601 (2015).
- Tal, O., Krieger, M., Leerink, B. & van Ruitenbeek, J. M. Electron-vibration interaction in single-molecule junctions: From contact to tunneling regimes. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **100**, 196804 (2008).
- Kumar, M., Avriller, R., Yeyati, A. L. & van Ruitenbeek, J. M. Detection of vibration-mode scattering in electronic shot noise. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **108**, 146602 (2012).
- Galperin, M. & Nitzan, A. Molecular optoelectronics: The interaction of molecular conduction junctions with light. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **14**, 9421–9438 (2012).
- Galperin, M. Photonics and spectroscopy in nanojunctions: a theoretical insight. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* (2017).
- Schneider, N. L., Schull, G. & Berndt, R. Optical probe of quantum shot-noise reduction at a single-atom contact. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **105**, 026601 (2010).
- Zakka-Bajjani, E. *et al.* Experimental determination of the statistics of photons emitted by a tunnel junction. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **104**, 206802 (2010).
- Schneider, N. L., Lü, J. T., Brandbyge, M. & Berndt, R. Light emission probing quantum shot noise and charge fluctuations at a biased molecular junction. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **109**, 186601 (2012).
- Kaasbjerg, K. & Nitzan, A. Theory of light emission from quantum noise in plasmonic contacts: Above-threshold emission from higher-order electron-plasmon scattering. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **114**, 126803 (2015).
- Hutchison, J. A., Schwartz, T., Genet, C., Devaux, E. & Ebbesen, T. W. Modifying chemical landscapes by coupling to vacuum fields. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **51**, 1592–1596 (2012).
- Schwartz, T. *et al.* Polariton dynamics under strong light-molecule coupling. *ChemPhysChem* **14**, 125–131 (2013).

17. Hutchison, J. A. *et al.* Tuning the work-function via strong coupling. *Adv. Mater.* **25**, 2481–2485 (2013).
18. Schwartz, T., Hutchison, J. A., Genet, C. & Ebbesen, T. W. Reversible switching of ultrastrong light-molecule coupling. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **106**, 196405 (2011).
19. Levitov, L. S. & Lesovik, G. B. Charge distribution in quantum shot noise. *JETP Lett.* **58**, 230–235 (1993).
20. Levitov, L. S., Lee, H. & Lesovik, G. B. Electron counting statistics and coherent states of electric current. *JMP* **37**, 4845–4866 (1996).
21. Gogolin, A. O. & Komnik, A. Towards full counting statistics for the Anderson impurity model. *Phys. Rev. B* **73**, 195301 (2006).
22. Schönhammer, K. Full counting statistics for noninteracting fermions: Exact results and the Levitov-Lesovik formula. *Phys. Rev. B* **75**, 205329 (2007).
23. Schönhammer, K. Full counting statistics for noninteracting fermions: exact finite-temperature results and generalized long-time approximation. *J. Phys.: Condens. Matter* **21**, 495306 (2009).
24. Tang, G.-M. & Wang, J. Full-counting statistics of charge and spin transport in the transient regime: A nonequilibrium Green's function approach. *Phys. Rev. B* **90**, 195422 (2014).
25. Yu, Z., Tang, G.-M. & Wang, J. Full-counting statistics of transient energy current in mesoscopic systems. *Phys. Rev. B* **93**, 195419 (2016).
26. Bo, O. L. & Galperin, Y. Low-frequency shot noise in phonon-assisted resonant magnetotunneling. *Phys. Rev. B* **55**, 1696–1706 (1997).
27. Meir, Y. & Golub, A. Shot noise through a quantum dot in the Kondo regime. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **88**, 116802 (2002).
28. Chen, Y.-C. & Di Ventra, M. Effect of electron-phonon scattering on shot noise in nanoscale junctions. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **95**, 166802 (2005).
29. Galperin, M., Nitzan, A. & Ratner, M. A. Inelastic tunneling effects on noise properties of molecular junctions. *Phys. Rev. B* **74**, 075326 (2006).
30. Souza, F. M., Jauho, A. P. & Egues, J. C. Spin-polarized current and shot noise in the presence of spin flip in a quantum dot via nonequilibrium Green's functions. *Phys. Rev. B* **78**, 155303 (2008).
31. Haupt, F., Novotný, T. & Belzig, W. Phonon-assisted current noise in molecular junctions. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **103**, 136601 (2009).
32. Schmidt, T. L. & Komnik, A. Charge transfer statistics of a molecular quantum dot with a vibrational degree of freedom. *Phys. Rev. B* **80**, 041307(R) (2009).
33. Haupt, F., Novotný, T. C. V. & Belzig, W. Current noise in molecular junctions: Effects of the electron-phonon interaction. *Phys. Rev. B* **82**, 165441 (2010).
34. Novotný, T. C. V., Haupt, F. & Belzig, W. Nonequilibrium phonon backaction on the current noise in atomic-sized junctions. *Phys. Rev. B* **84**, 113107 (2011).
35. Dong, B., Cui, H. L. & Lei, X. L. Pumped spin-current and shot-noise spectra of a single quantum dot. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **94**, 066601 (2005).
36. Belzig, W. Full counting statistics of super-Poissonian shot noise in multilevel quantum dots. *Phys. Rev. B* **71**, 161301 (2005).
37. Koch, J., von Oppen, F. & Andreev, A. V. Theory of the Franck-Condon blockade regime. *Phys. Rev. B* **74**, 205438 (2006).
38. Park, T.-H. & Galperin, M. Self-consistent full counting statistics of inelastic transport. *Phys. Rev. B* **84**, 205450 (2011).
39. Li, H., Agarwalla, B. K., Li, B. & Wang, J.-S. Cumulants of heat transfer across nonlinear quantum systems. *Eur. Phys. J. B* **86**, 500 (2013).
40. Baym, G. & Kadanoff, L. P. Conservation laws and correlation functions. *Phys. Rev.* **124**, 287–299 (1961).
41. Baym, G. Self-consistent approximations in many-body systems. *Phys. Rev.* **127**, 1391–1401 (1962).
42. Avriker, R. & Frederiksen, T. Inelastic shot noise characteristics of nanoscale junctions from first principles. *Phys. Rev. B* **86**, 155411 (2012).
43. Esposito, M., Harbola, U. & Mukamel, S. Nonequilibrium fluctuations, fluctuation theorems, and counting statistics in quantum systems. *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **81**, 1665–1702 (2009).
44. Schoeller, H. & Schön, G. Mesoscopic quantum transport: Resonant tunneling in the presence of a strong Coulomb interaction. *Phys. Rev. B* **50**, 18436–18452 (1994).
45. König, J., Schoeller, H. & Schön, G. Zero-bias anomalies and boson-assisted tunneling through quantum dots. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **76**, 1715–1718 (1996).
46. König, J., Schmid, J., Schoeller, H. & Schön, G. Resonant tunneling through ultrasmall quantum dots: Zero-bias anomalies, magnetic-field dependence, and boson-assisted transport. *Phys. Rev. B* **54**, 16820–16837 (1996).
47. Pedersen, J. N. & Wacker, A. Tunneling through nanosystems: Combining broadening with many-particle states. *Phys. Rev. B* **72**, 195330 (2005).
48. Karlström, O., Pedersen, J. N., Samuelsson, P. & Wacker, A. Canyon of current suppression in an interacting two-level quantum dot. *Phys. Rev. B* **83**, 205412 (2011).
49. Kern, J. & Grifoni, M. Transport across an anderson quantum dot in the intermediate coupling regime. *Eur. Phys. J. B* **86**, 384 (2013).
50. Dirnacher, A. *et al.* Transport across a carbon nanotube quantum dot contacted with ferromagnetic leads: Experiment and nonperturbative modeling. *Phys. Rev. B* **91**, 195402 (2015).
51. Thielmann, A., Hettler, M. H., König, J. & Schön, G. Shot noise in tunneling transport through molecules and quantum dots. *Phys. Rev. B* **68**, 115105 (2003).
52. Chen, F., Ochoa, M. A. & Galperin, M. Nonequilibrium diagrammatic technique for Hubbard Green functions. *J. Chem. Phys.* **146**, 092301 (2017).
53. Sandalov, I., Johansson, B. & Eriksson, O. Theory of strongly correlated electron systems: Hubbard-anderson models from an exact hamiltonian, and perturbation theory near the atomic limit within a nonorthogonal basis set. *Int. J. Quant. Chem.* **94**, 113–143 (2003).
54. Fransson, J. *Non-Equilibrium Nano-Physics. A Many-Body Approach*. (Springer, 2010).
55. Esposito, M., Ochoa, M. A. & Galperin, M. Efficiency fluctuations in quantum thermoelectric devices. *Phys. Rev. B* **91**, 115417 (2015).
56. Esposito, M. & Galperin, M. Self-consistent quantum master equation approach to molecular transport. *J. Phys. Chem. C* **114**, 20362–20369 (2010).
57. Aoki, H. *et al.* Nonequilibrium dynamical mean-field theory and its applications. *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **86**, 779–837 (2014).
58. Stefanucci, G. & van Leeuwen, R. *Nonequilibrium Many-Body Theory of Quantum Systems. A Modern Introduction*. (Cambridge University Press, 2013).
59. Kiguchi, M. *et al.* Highly conductive molecular junctions based on direct binding of benzene to platinum electrodes. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **101**, 046801 (2008).
60. White, A. J. & Galperin, M. Inelastic transport: a pseudoparticle approach. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **14**, 13809–13819 (2012).

Acknowledgements

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under CHE - 1565939, and JSPS KAKENHI (Grant Nos 15J03915, 15H02025, 16K21623). Part of the numerical calculations were performed using HOKUSAI system at RIKEN.

Author Contributions

K.M. prepared diagrammatic expansion within PP- and Hubbard-NEGF, and performed noise spectrum simulations within PP-NEGF. F.C. participated in developing the Hubbard NEGF. M.G. performed simulations within the Hubbard NEGF, and prepared the manuscript. All authors reviewed the manuscript.

Additional Information

Supplementary information accompanies this paper at doi:[10.1038/s41598-017-09060-0](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-09060-0)

Competing Interests: The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Publisher's note: Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

© The Author(s) 2017